

AUSTRALIAN

UFO

BULLETIN



THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 43 MOORABBIN 3189 VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

FLASHING LIGHTS, GROUND TRACES IN THE NORTH WEST

A discoloured circle has been discovered in a paddock at the spot from which a group of flashing red lights rising from the ground was observed by four witnesses in a car. At about 11.20 p.m. on the night of Saturday, Sep. 25, 1976, Mr. A. White, his wife, Mrs. V. White, and two teenagers, Joe Schirripa and Kim Williamson, all of Mildura, were returning home after a visit to relatives of the Whites at a farm about 35 miles south west of Mildura. As they rounded a bend and came over the brow of a low rise at a locality known as Karawinna South, they all observed a group of red lights apparently on the ground in a paddock an estimated 200 yards away on their left. Mrs. White said:

We were coming home from a farm, and we were just coming over the brow of a hill and we saw the red lights, and the boys that were with us all said "Spotlighters", which we all thought it was. At that instant this group of red lights, flashing very bright, lifted straight up into the air like a helicopter does. It hovered in the air for about a minute directly above where we saw them, and then they drifted off towards the east, gradually gaining height. It was hovering again for a minute or more and then it just disappeared. But in this time there was all silence - there was no noise at all until it disappeared. And it was then that we heard a noise - it sounded like a transport in the distance. Prior to that there was no noise at all - perfectly silent....

....It was set in a little valley, and the only way that you can see down into this valley - they're only sort of little sandhills - you can only see from about 100 yards on this little spot. That's when we saw the lights and when they lifted off the boys let out an exclamation. That's when my husband stopped the car and we watched it continue to rise up. It only rose up a couple of hundred feet or so, but it rose very slowly - just as though it was a helicopter. It didn't go fast - there was no speed attached to it....We watched this phenomenon for about seven minutes all told, I suppose....

Mr. and Mrs. White said that immediately before the lights lifted off, they began flashing in unison at a rate of about one per second, although remaining the same red in colour. The flashing they likened to that of a car tail light when the footbrake is repeatedly applied and released. The set of lights appeared to span a width of 10 to 12 feet ("about the width of two cars"), and they had the impression that the distance between individual lights was about equal to one light's width. Each light appeared to be of a squarish shape, possibly with rounded corners like a TV screen, or similar to the large tail lights on modern cars. Although they did not count the exact number of lights, they thought it was probably 6 or 8.

By the time the lights had reached a hovering position after a vertical lift-off, Mr. White had stopped the car and turned off the engine and lights, and they continued to watch it. By now the flashing had stopped and they were watching a steady set of red lights. Although Mrs. White estimated its altitude at this stage to be a couple of hundred feet, Mr. White estimated it to be about 50 feet. The flashing started up again and the lights began to drift slowly off towards the east, gaining height. The car was started again and they followed it along, the object on their left hand side, keeping roughly parallel to its course. The object's altitude was low enough for it to be obscured intermittently by a line of trees along the side of the road.

The Whites now turned north at a crossroads and the set of lights floated across the front of them to hover over a paddock on their right hand side. At this point the car was stopped again and they watched the set of lights as they hovered briefly a second time, this time higher and further away than before. As they watched, the flashing started again for the third time, and suddenly the lights vanished completely as if they had been switched off. That was the last they saw of the phenomenon, but immediately after its disappearance they heard the sound "like a powerful semi in the distance". Asked if any object or structure could be seen attached to the lights, Mrs. White said: "The lights were bright and you couldn't penetrate the lights to see what the structure was behind it. It was just this group of lights. The group of lights seemed to be on a level - like car tail lights"; while Mr. White said they were "just like on a semi trailer".

Although not really frightened by the experience, all four witnesses were greatly puzzled, and the Whites and one of the youths decided to go back a few days later to investigate the site. Mrs. White said:

There wasn't a car track in the paddock. When we went back in the daylight to have a look, there wasn't a car track in the paddock, and the property owner said there had been no stock or cars in the paddock for at least 12 months or more....

....When we went out on the Tuesday (Sep. 28) - we got permission to go into the property - the property owners were there to meet us, and we were waiting for my cousin to come. So one of the boys that was with us - we went down through the paddock for a walk on our own - and we came across this circle. All the straw and that was off, and it was a completely different colour, and a complete circle - 71 feet across when it was measured....

....The paddock was covered with straw and it was like as though a vacuum cleaner had sucked up all the straw in this area. The straw was gone from this circle. And another thing was the hop bush on the side of the hill near it. It was all sort of browned off on one side.... the side near the circle, and there was also some other sticks and things there were browned off - and there'd been no fires through the paddocks.

THE NEXT SOCIETY MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE NATIONAL MUTUAL THEATRETTE ON DECEMBER 10...SEE BACK PAGE.

Asked if there was any evidence of burning inside the circle, Mrs. White said:

No, not inside the circle, it was just that it was a completely different colour - it was brown. But the paddock, the grasses, dry straw and stuff and stubble - and grasses that had been dried off because there'd been a drought out there - they were more or less grey - but this area was brown....

....I didn't notice that the soil was a different colour - it was the grass in that area. One of the things we noticed when we went out on Saturday to get the extra soil to bring down to Melbourne, was that the whole paddock - now they've had a lot of rain out there since - they've had five inches of rain - the whole paddock is covered with barley grass, matted with barley grass - but not in this area - not in the circle...

The Whites were asked how they could be sure that the circle was found in the exact spot where the lights had been seen. Said Mrs. White: "We've never set foot in that paddock, but we know it particularly well... the pine tree was near where the lights were.... Well, when we went back in the daylight we just sort of more or less went up to the same spot and walked just across the top of the hill, and we walked more or less straight into it. That was the amazing thing. We thought - well, it couldn't have been imagination the week before that four of us saw the same things together...."

No abnormality of the functioning of the car was reported during the observation, but by the time they arrived home the right hand head light was faulty. At a subsequent garage check no cause could be discovered, but the light continued to malfunction intermittently.

Asked whether any physiological effects were experienced, Mrs. White reported that from the next day she suffered from a severe pain in the neck immediately behind the left ear:

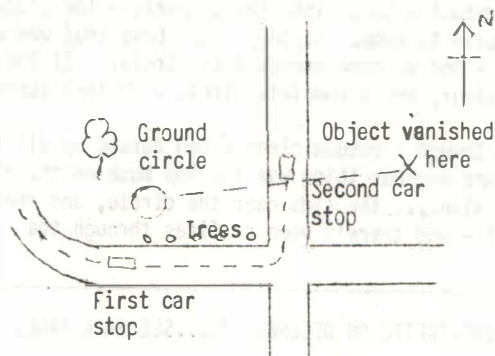
Well, a strange effect - now I asked the doctors about this. It's something that happened the day after - was that I had a bad neck. And I had to go to the doctor with it, and they reckoned it was a wry neck. But I had pains in the neck here, and in the ear. And I asked the doctors could it have been anything to do with it. And, oh, they pooh-hoohed it, you know - stupid. They had a look in the ear - there was nothing. But I had about 12 days with a bad neck and ear, and I even had therapy - they reckoned it was a wry neck....

....I put the car window down and that's the ear where the thing was.... I even put my neck in a collar.. ...The Sunday night I didn't sleep very well, because I had a funny ear. Well, on the Monday it just sort of got worse and worse, and it worked up to such a crescendo that I was nearly crazy with it one night. I went to the doctor on Thursday.... at 5 o'clock, and they gave me some tablets and just said to rub your neck and behind the ear with some stuff. I had to go to the hospital again at 9 o'clock for something stronger, and they said to have a sleeping tablet and some pain killer - when I might as well have had a drink of water. And I got my husband to take me up to the hospital again at one o'clock in the morning. And they gave me stronger tablets which didn't do anything for it at all. And I walked around till 3 o'clock holding my head that I was nearly crazy. And I went back to the doctor again in the morning, and that's when they sent me up to therapy and that. They said they thought it was a wry neck. I went to the ear specialist and asked him - could it have been anything to do with it, and he said, oh no, nothing to do with it at all.

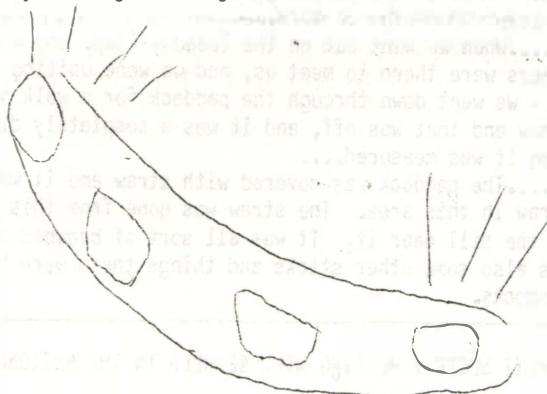
Mrs. White said that she had never had any ear trouble in the past, and at the time of the interview it had completely cleared up. None of the other witnesses had reported any bodily effects during or after the sighting.

The locality is a wheat growing area, and the nearest habitation to the site of the circle is the property of Mrs. White's cousin, about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles away. An interesting detail which emerged during the interview with the Whites was that on each of two successive Saturday nights - the night of the sighting and the next - a cow had disappeared from the property of Mrs. White's cousin. Mr. White said:

He went out the Saturday morning - you know, he goes around every morning, to see how the stock's going, and there was one missing.... Anyway, they've never found it from that day to this - they don't know what happened to it.... They've checked the fences and things like that and they can't see where it's got out of the paddock. So, the night we saw these lights, there was one missing that night, too.... it was there on the Saturday morning and when he went round on the Sunday morning it was gone.



Plan compiled from witness's sketch.



The lights as sketched by Mrs. White.

OTHER REPORTS FROM THE NORTH WEST

Mildura, 3/8/1976 (from the Sunraysia Daily, 4/8/76)

When Steve Papp of King's Billabong was disturbed by strange noises in the early hours of yesterday morning he quickly flew out of bed and grabbed his shot gun. Mr. Papp was determined to protect his fowls from invading foxes which had been causing concern over recent weeks. But what he saw near the foel house was not foxes but an unidentified flying object.

"I thought of getting my camera but I realised I did not have any film in it", Mr. Papp said yesterday. "What I saw was exactly the same as many of those published pictures of UFO objects", Mr. Papp said. "The UFO was oval shaped with a dome and was hovering about four or five feet above the power lines nearby", Mr. Papp said. "I watched the object, which was about 120 yards away, for five minutes".

Mr. Papp said there was noise like a jet plane coming from the object but it stopped when the lights turned orange and it flew away. Mr. Papp said he watched the UFO travel about half a mile and then stop for another ten minutes.

It then flew away in the direction of Trentham Cliffs", he said. "The only thing I was able to do was to time how long the object was about. The UFO was about as big as my house".

Manangatang, 7/9/1976 (from the Robinvale Sentinel, 23/9/76)

....Latest report is from Mrs. P. Higgins of Bannerton, who had an unenviable experience on the night of Sep 7. The night was cloudy and there was misty rain as Mrs. Higgins drove at 8.30 p.m. along the Manangatang-Ouyen road. Suddenly there appeared just above the treetops a brilliant red light about the size of a dinner plate. Mrs. Higgins reports that she was fascinated and frightened by the light which kept going out and leaving a vivid glow. There was no sound and no object could be seen but on her hasty return back to Manangatang Mrs. Higgins related her story to her family and at least four other people saw the light.

The spot for the sighting is about 9 km from Managatang and there have been previous sightings of the strange light at about the same spot. One Adelaide family who saw the light were so frightened by it that they spent the night in Managatang rather than continue on their journey at night.

Torritya, 5/10/1976.

On or about Oct. 5, a farmer discovered on his property two ground circles, each 18 feet in diameter, and 24 feet between the circle edges. The site is a paddock of short grass about 4 miles north of Torritya, which is about 25 miles west of Ouyen. A nephew of the farmer was in Melbourne a few days later and showed us photos of the circles. The central part appears as a brownish-grey circular area, perhaps 12 to 15 feet in diameter, surrounded by a border of much lighter colour. Both circles appear to be similar. The young man said that the material in the circles appeared to have been swirled into the centre. The grass in the circles appeared to have been burnt but was growing again. The man had not heard of any visual sightings in the area. Some samples taken from the site have been forwarded to ACOS.

Mildura, 7/10/1976 (from the Sunraysia Daily, 11/10/76)

Mildura South residents are puzzled over an unexplained light in the sky in their area - seen last Thursday night. One resident, who did not want his name published, said he kept the unusual light under observation for at least 20 minutes.

He said his wife first saw the object hovering at low altitude in the direction of Cabarita. She had looked out the window after a number of dogs began barking in the area about 9 p.m. The man said he got a pair of binoculars and went to investigate.

He saw a plate-shaped object at an angle of about 75 degrees, brilliantly lit by coloured flashing lights. The object was no more than 300 or 400 feet above the ground. After he had watched it for more than 20 minutes it seemed to shrink in size as it moved away toward the S.A. border.

"Rising out of the body of the object - a distinct saucer of light - were splashes of light from top to bottom", he said. "It constantly changed colour, from vivid red to yellow to white".

He said there must have been many other people who saw the object, as it hovered for quite a while over South Mildura, Cabarita, and then the Birdwoodton area. Earlier last week a number of Buronga people reported seeing lights hovering in the area near the Buronga water tower. They said the object was a dark oval shape and two smaller lights underneath.

Mildura, 8/10/1976 (from the Sunraysia Daily, 12/10/76)

A Cardross man yesterday told how he had watched strange lights in the sky through binoculars two nights running. Mr. C. W. Taylor said he watched the strange lights in the sky about 9 p.m. Friday. Mr. Taylor believed the object was out above the Werrimull area.

"It was a blue and yellow colour with a brilliant red light at the top of it and a smaller one at the bottom" he said. "These two lights would alternate off and on - and sometimes all the lights would go out. It eventually descended, and I believe it settled on the ground somewhere".

Mr. Taylor said he watched the same object at the same time on Saturday night. He said it hovered in the same area. "I went out again to have another look on Sunday night, but it was not there", he said.....

In the Sunraysia Daily for 1 /10/76, Irymple horticulturist, Mr. David Jones recalled that several years ago he found a section of his dried fruit property burned. Mr. Jones said a number of vines in a circle measuring 30 feet in diameter had been singed and burned. "An unusual thing about it was that the particular vines didn't bear any fruit at all that season", he said. Mr. Jones said he had a number of experts inspect the burned vines, but no solutions as to the whole thing resulted.

MELBOURNE LIGHTS

Claims of sightings of lights in the sky over Melbourne on five separate occasions involving different witnesses have been made by two young women interviewed recently. E.G., 20, a nurse, and W.M., 19, a secretary, told us the following story:

Sep. 17; between 7.30 and 8 p.m.: E.G. and M.E. were driving towards Melbourne along Dandenong Road, Caulfield. Ahead of them, in the west, they observed two star-like objects, apparently at some distance, move toward one another and come to a stop close to one another at about 45 degrees elevation. They stopped the car and turned the motor off, but no sound was heard. From outside the car they watched the two lights remain stationary for perhaps half a minute, after which they rapidly moved off in different directions. The one that they watched go out of sight over the horizon towards the south flew "definitely faster than a plane" - the speed of the objects was what had attracted their attention. They were unsure of what happened to the other light, having concentrated their attention on the one going south. The observation lasted about 5 minutes.

Sep. 18; 8.30 p.m.: Five witnesses were involved - E.G. and M.E. of the previous night, and three others; W.M., W.H. and M.H. The five young people, all in the one car, were travelling along Dandenong Road when at about the same position as the previous night they all saw a combination of lights in the sky on their right hand side. The configuration was as shown in the diagram; four lights in an L-shape, two red, one white, and a green. A red one on one end was flashing regularly, while the green was positioned vertically above the other red one. They didn't watch its manoeuvres continuously, but it was seen at various positions from both sides of the car. They were greatly puzzled by it because it seemed to be cruising around all over the sky, and was moving much faster than a plane. In addition, it



appeared to undergo abrupt discontinuities in flight pattern, with sudden right angle turns, and periods when it was stationary. On several occasions it turned off all lights except the red one. It was seen by all five people in the car, and all were of the opinion that it was not a plane. Duration an estimated 15 minutes.

Sep. 24; 7 - 7.30 p.m.: W.M. and E.G. were travelling north along East Boundary Road when they again saw the lights. When they stopped at the house in Blackwood St., Carnegie where they were to visit a friend, they remained in their parked car. At about 40 degrees elevation in the west they saw a plane, and heading towards it, moving south, was the object. It came in from a greater altitude, descended over the plane, circled round above the plane, then flew away from it, to continue manoeuvres similar to the previous night. Again they watched as it cruised around the sky, sometimes hovering stationary, sometimes showing only one red light, until it finally moved out of sight in the north west. They stressed that they could hear the normal sound from the plane, but they listened carefully and could hear no sound at all from the object. They were sure it was the same object seen the previous Saturday as the light pattern was exactly the same, and they were now more convinced than ever that it was not a plane, having had a chance to compare its speed and flight performance with that of an actual plane. Duration approx. 15 minutes.

Sep. 28 or 29; 11.30 p.m.: E.G. and M.E. saw the same object at Edithvale while travelling south along Nepean Highway. Appearing in front of them at first, it passed almost over the car, and they watched it again to their rear for about 5 minutes until it finally disappeared from view. This time it appeared to be brighter and closer than the other occasions. They did not stop, but the window was wound down and once again no sound could be heard.

Oct. 6; 8.30 P.M.: W.M. and K.L. saw the object again from a car while travelling north along East Boundary Rd. between South and Centre Roads. Out on their right, not very high above houses, the same light pattern was "doing its normal tricks", as it moved generally towards the south. W.M. said this time she could vaguely see "some sort of mass" underneath the lights.

All of the six different witnesses involved in these five sightings were convinced that the object was not a plane. The two girls interviewed said that the light pattern seen was always the same, as if it never at any stage appeared to alter its orientation with respect to them. In apparent length they judged it to be smaller than the moon. Our suspicion was that it was a plane, but the two girls, living in the vicinity of Moorabbin Airport and quite familiar with planes, were adamant that it was not. They continually stressed that they had never seen anything like it before, and that its behaviour was totally unlike that of a plane: "It zips and corners quickly, does swift right angle turns and quick elevation changes".

Another nocturnal light was reported for Sep. 25, the same night as the Mildura case. A woman living at Scoresby went outside with her daughter at 7.55 p.m. and they both observed in the west a brilliantly luminous reddish-orange object "like three balls joined together", at about 25 degrees elevation. The woman drove her daughter to Knoxfield, and, observing the object on her way back, noticed that the object had ascended considerably. By the time she had arrived home again in about 5 minutes, the object had reached about 70 degrees elevation. She called out her husband and they both watched it remain stationary high in the sky until about 8.05, when it slowly descended to its original height, after which it started to move towards the south and they finally lost sight of it behind houses at 8.15. Thus the object had descended through about 40 degrees of elevation in 10 minutes. A natural explanation for this sighting is not outside the bounds of possibility.

FROM THE VICTORIAN PRESSGeelong (Geelong News, 3/9/76)

A Grovedale man claimed this week he saw two UFOs near his home. Mr. Grant White, 34, of Gloucester St., told The News: "They were black, mushroom-shaped. They went straight up and headed south. They disappeared in a couple of seconds".

Mr. White, a boilermaker at Victorian Portland Cement, Waurin Ponds, said he saw the objects near Airport Rd. at 6 a.m. last Friday. He was returning from work along Boundary Rd. "When I saw them I just stopped the car and sat there. They were black, mushroom-shaped and were a mile or more away. They went straight up and headed south, travelling side by side. The second one left a vapour trail, presumably from some kind of exhaust. They disappeared in a couple of seconds".

Mr. White, who telephoned The News three days after his sighting, said it was a clear morning. "It couldn't have been a plane", he said. "There were no lights at all...."

Wonthaggi, Oct. 10.

Standing in the back yard of her house in North Wonthaggi at 7.25 p.m., the woman observed a large, deep red object, "just like a Chinese lantern", over the town towards the south at about 40 degrees elevation. No sound was heard as the object slowly descended to about 10 degrees elevation, where it hovered briefly, then slowly moved horizontally towards the east. After it had passed behind some trees, she watched it swing away towards the south to disappear behind houses. She estimated that the object, which she was convinced was under controlled flight, was in sight for about 5 minutes. There was no wind, and no sound at all during the sighting.

A brief report of this sighting appeared in the Wonthaggi Sentinel for Oct. 14, in which it was stated that two other women, one from Cape Patterson, had telephoned descriptions of a similar object to the Sentinel. Cape Patterson is 5 miles south of Wonthaggi, in the direction in which the object at Wonthaggi was last seen heading. The two other reports came about half an hour after the Wonthaggi sighting. We contacted the Editor of the Sentinel in an attempt to locate these two witnesses, but he told us that their names were not taken.



The Wonthaggi object, as sketched by the witness.

Castlemaine, Oct. 22 (Castlemaine Mail, 22/10/76)

A flying saucer object was reported by a Castlemaine resident, flying slowly over the city early this morning. The resident said he observed it for about four minutes flying from a north east direction to the south, just before sunrise at 5.30. No sound was heard and it appeared as two separate parts, saucer shaped like two wings, one above the other. It had a greyish appearance and carried no lights. The resident said it was the first one he had seen, having only heard about these things up till now.

ANOTHER GIPPSLAND SIGHTING

Paynesville investigator Dan Haylock reports that another sighting has been made by one of the witnesses involved in the Dargo car pacing of Jan. 26, 1976 (See Bulletin for May, 1976). The witness, accompanied by her young cousin aged 10 set out at 5.40 a.m. on March 5, 1976 to bring in the house cow. The young lad pointed out that the sun was rising over the mountains to the east. The witness realised that although the object was in the east, it was not the sun, but bright enough to shine through the morning mist.

This was only six weeks after the fright she had when the car was followed in January, and they both returned to the house to tell the rest of the family. The witness accompanied them outside again to look for the light. It was still over the mountains to the east, but approaching. As it arrived over a grassy hill a half mile away, they could see that it was round, a golden colour, and apparently twice the size of the sun.

Suddenly it split down the middle, each half flying away - one piece to the north, the other to the south, the mist preventing what happened to them to be seen. There was no sound.

This resembles a Paynesville sighting many years ago when an orange coloured ball dropped from the sky, and when 300 feet over a lady's back yard, was seen to rip apart vertically, one half flaring off to the east, the other to the west. This one made a loud bang and caused the SEC light on her back verandah to go off and on about three times.

UNREPORTED SIGHTINGS

There are many interesting UFO observations that go unreported. It is well known that people often have an interesting story to tell. Where any member comes across such instances, the Society would be interested in hearing about it. The Society would appreciate names, addresses, and a brief description of the type of sighting, whether it be recent or even dating back years. The names at all times will be kept in strict confidence.

TASMANIA

Springfield, July 29, 8.40 p.m.: Witness in car park notices row of yellowish lights in direction of Mt. Wellington and moving slowly west. Looked like line of 6 or more lights with a square light at the front. In view five minutes till fades out in clear sky.

Mangalore, July 29, 2.16 a.m.: Lone motorist sees two lights shining from hillside to east, stationary and yellow coloured. Glances back 10 seconds later and lights now red, feels heat effect on face then lights lost from view in few seconds.

Bagdad, July 29, 9.30 p.m.: (from the New Norfolk Gazette, 5/8/1976)

A UFO, as big as a container-carrying semi-trailer, flew only a few feet above roadside paddocks at Bagdad in Brighton Municipality last Thursday night. The UFO was noticed by a business woman as she made her way north about 9.30 p.m. Initial inquiries by the TUFOIC have ruled out any chance of the UFO being anything but a UFO. The DCA said there were no aircraft in the area at the time.

The woman first noticed the UFO when it was on her right. She said it was as big as a container-carrying semi-trailer, and had yellowish-white lights which blinked on and off. The UFO was almost stationary, and only four metres from the ground.

Then it moved north, and the woman paced it in her car. She lost sight of it when the highway went through a cutting, but she saw it again, this time on the left hand side of the highway. The woman accelerated to 60 mph hoping to keep the UFO in sight in case it landed. However, it increased speed and went higher, eventually disappearing over the hills in Dysart.

At the urging of her husband, the woman reported the sighting to the University of Tasmania, who handed the data over to TUFOIC. Investigators said it was more than likely that the UFO was seen by people who were driving along the highway about 9.30 p.m....

Bagdad, July 31, 7.10 p.m.:

....Then, early this week, two women, still shaken, told TUFOIC investigators how they were "buzzed" by a UFO at Bagdad on Saturday night. It was about 7.10 p.m., and the women were returning home after having been to a local shop. Through their windscreen they saw a bright light which as it came closer appeared to be a "bright shiny silver round thing". It dived straight at their car, passing low over the roof, and disappeared at high speed. The women said the UFO appeared to be "as big as our car" - a medium sized saloon. The women did not stop to see where the UFO went: "We just tore off home", they said.

Earlier that day they had been approached by the businesswoman who saw the low-flying UFO at Bagdad on Thursday. She was trying to find witnesses. Both said they were not very interested in the Thursday sighting when told about it early on Saturday morning. However, after their own experience on Saturday night they "didn't know what to think".

Ten Mile Hill, Aug. 2, 4.00 a.m.: M. Wood was returning home in the early hours. At the bottom of Ten Mile Hill when driving north a screen-like projection appeared in front of his car, it seemed to fill the field of view. At the same time a loud distorted electrical type music sound was heard. On the screen he saw a yellow light source to the left and a large figure in profile to the right. The figure was in a tight fitting black jacket and light coloured trousers, it seemed to be turning towards the witness. Wood braked, but just seemed to drive through the screen. It was all over in a few seconds.

Boyer, Aug. 2, 4.45 p.m.: At least four witnesses watched a strange black object moving in and out of the clouds to the west of the Newsprint Mills at Boyer. It appeared to be changing shape as it moved generally north west. First it looked like a balloon, then went more football shaped before having a vapour like trail below. It was more than moon sized but had a well defined outline. It dropped in front of the darkening distant hills and was lost from view. Sighting made by witnesses at two different locations.

Boyer, Aug. 15, 2.15 a.m.: Two witnesses were paced by an object on the Boyer to New Norfolk road. First a bright light was seen to the north east, the witnesses drove past Boyer for a better look. When the light seemed to approach the vehicle they returned to Boyer leaving one witness at his home. The two remaining witnesses returned to New Norfolk, this time the light came within 200 yards, they estimated. It shone a light into the vehicle, also the car radio faded out. It appeared as hat shaped with a red strip in the centre. The beam came from the bright dome atop.

- From the TUFOIC Newsletter.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From the Millicent Times, 30/9/1976:

Did anyone see an unidentified flying object last night to back up the hair-raising experiences of Ross McCallum and son Ian at Nangula? The time, shortly after 8 p.m., doesn't match with "wheelies" reported by other sources - and the UFO was noiseless.

Ross said this morning that Ian had been working in a paddock towards Max Warren's. He finished and shot home after seeing the thing at about 2,000 feet. As he went home, the UFO "went like a rocket" to 3 or 4,000 feet and held over Lake Bonney. Ross used powerful field glasses and reports it had a red light on top, blue below and white in the centre section. After 10 minutes it disappeared south westerly out to sea.

Ian denied it could have been a helicopter because it travelled too quickly? Any other reports?

A "REPEATER" FROM THE CAMPBELLTOWN AREA

From UFOIC Newsletter, No. 48, July-Aug., 1976 (P.O. Box 6, Lane Cove, N.S.W. 2066):

At about 5.45 a.m. on April 30, 1976, on the Menangle Road between Douglas Park and Maldon (NSW), a triangular shaped object hovered over a motorist for about 20 seconds, before moving off slowly in a north west direction, following the lie of the land. When it approached the nearby range, it did not gain any altitude, but just skimmed over the tops of the trees and eventually disappeared from sight. Incidentally, triangular shaped objects featured in sightings at Malibar Beach (25/2/76) and Kempsey (5/7/76) again at about 5.30 a.m.

The motorist who made the above report also observed another strange UFO on July 12, 1976 at about 5.50 a.m. on the Camden Road between Campbelltown and Narellan. He noticed a very bright white light in a paddock to his left. Stopping, he observed that the big light of undefinable shape appeared to be moving across the paddock, in a line of flight, almost heading directly towards his stationary position. The motorist drove into a steep siding, which enabled him to shine his driving lights almost directly onto the large light.

The light immediately vanished, and then reappeared almost instantaneously. It continued moving along its straight course moving closer to the car. At about 100 yards from the road, the light banked to the left and began to move parallel to the road. The motorist immediately reversed out of the cutting and began to follow the light. The witness accelerated his car up to about 90 mph, over about a mile, down the road. The light continued to move steadily ahead of the car.

The light then slowed down to about 30 mph, and, thinking that the light was slowing down to stop, the motorist slowed down and stopped. The light then banked to the right, crossing the road about 50 yards in front of the car, and at an apparent altitude of only 200 feet. The light continued on this new course, eventually passing over some trees.

- Investigation by B. Chalker.

UFO SIGHTINGS INVESTIGATED IN GLEN INNES

(Glen Innes Examiner, 28/9/76)

An investigation in Glen Innes (NSW) last week may be the embryo of a television program relating to unidentified flying objects. John McQueen of the ABC in Sydney was in Glen Innes last week to investigate reports of unexplained lights and shapes seen by several Glen Innes residents.

After hearing reports of the sightings from a friend, Mr. McQueen, who is a research assistant in the ABC's television science unit, decided to investigate the reports for himself. Hoping to find enough material for a planned science programme scheduled for next year, Mr. McQueen interviewed several people in Glen Innes and was surprised at the number of sightings which have gone unreported.

"It is amazing the number of people who have seen the unidentified objects, but refuse to report them for fear of being ridiculed", he said. "More amazing is the number of sightings which correspond. For example, several people told me about a large cigar-shaped object they saw on the night of the Queen's Birthday holiday this year. Although quite often each person had not realised that someone else had seen it too, the shape and even its colour correspond in each story".

Mr. McQueen spent three days interviewing people in the Glen Innes district about various sightings, which included cigar-shaped objects, flying saucers and unexplained lights. He said there was a popular theory among UFO enthusiasts which maintained the cigar-shaped objects were the mother ship, while flying saucers were the exploratory vehicles sent from the mother ship.

Although Mr. McQueen was satisfied with the validity of the stories he was given, he said he did not have enough material for a television programme. His next step is to interview "experts" on the subject of UFOs, as well as check out the sightings with the Air Force.

"Even then, it will be difficult to say if we have a programme, but hopefully, other people who have been afraid to speak up before, will come forward with their stories, now that others have done so".

LAUGHING PETER CHANGES HIS MIND

Another clipping, just received, from the Sunraysia Daily, 1/11/1976:

Peter Halse, 19, used to laugh when he read reports of people seeing strange lights and unidentified flying objects. But on Friday night, Peter, of Red Cliffs, became a firm believer!

About 10 p.m., Peter and a friend, Joanne Lambert, were driving along 14th Street toward Red Cliffs when they saw a light about three quarters of a mile away. They thought it was a plane and did not take any notice until Peter glanced in the rear-vision mirror and saw that the light had moved right up behind his car.

"The yellow light was diamond-shaped with a bright halo. I had stopped the car, but drove off when I saw the light so close", he said.

The light stayed with the car for about two miles. But when Peter turned off the road, the light disappeared.

"I had laughed at UFO stories before, but I will not laugh at them again. I had not been drinking, either," he said. Neither Peter nor Joanne would get out of the car to look more closely at the light which did not make a sound.

"After we had stopped the first time, our only concern was to get away as fast as we could. The halo was brighter than the centre light. Joanne was as white as a ghost and almost hysterical. And I was not much better", Peter added. "It took only about 2½ seconds to reach up from where we first saw it". (continued)

Peter said he went back to the same place on Saturday night in an effort to find some explanation for what had happened the previous night. "The only light near the road was a floodlight and that was nothing like the shape of the light we saw. It was not my imagination", Peter said.

UFOS CHASE SUPERJET, CREWMEN CLAIM

(Sydney Sunday Telegraph, 12/2/76)

Hostile UFOs are chasing and harassing an air force jet involved in America's manned space program, according to Air Force men who have flown it. Crewmen of the jet are convinced the UFOs are trying to pick a fight.

Former Air Force Sgt. Duane B. Piciani said this week: "We frequently had to dodge flying saucers that popped up suddenly on our tail and stalked us. One of the craft performed manoeuvres that would only be possible for a spaceship, and its behaviour was unmistakably hostile".

Piciani's account was verified by other crewmen of the jet, which is crammed with super-sensitive electronics equipment and flies out of Patrick Air Force Base near Cape Canaveral, Florida. Capt. James B. Phillips, information officer for the Air Force Systems Command, confirmed the jet encountered "unknown aerial phenomena" on several flights.

Piciani, 27, who recently retired from the Air Force, said the UFO contacts began some years ago. On the first day the crew of the jet - called an Apollo Range Instrumentation Aircraft - had a perfect view of one of the belligerent flying saucers. "The saucer shaped craft snuggled right up next to our wing", Piciani said. "It was round and flat, about 40 feet in diameter, with a raised surface in its centre that might have been a crew's quarters".

On another flight, Piciani said, "We had three UFOs hanging around our wingtips and tail for 45 minutes playing aerial chicken with us. Another time, a single UFO paralleled our flight path for almost an hour and kept diving in front of us. This sort of thing happened repeatedly. We had the feeling they were trying to lure us into a fight and we were, of course, unarmed".

An Air Force captain who flies the Apollo Range Instrumentation Aircraft confirmed that crews now flying the aircraft have seen UFOs, too. "So far nobody's been hurt, but it's very disturbing", said the captain, who asked not to be identified because of the Air Force's policy, since 1969, of not admitting any UFO sightings or contact.

SOME RUMANIAN CASES

Some reports received from correspondent, Moraru Augustin, of Ploiesti, Rumania. Some minor changes have been made in Mr. Augustin's translation to present a better rendering in English.

Cigar Seen over Valea Teleajenului

At approximately 6 p.m. on the evening of Feb. 2, 1974, a glowing orange red object which was described as "cigar-shaped" was observed coming from the south west at tremendous speed. It was observed from Drajna de Jos, Ogretin, Posesti, Tirllesti, Carbunesti, Valea Plopului, Starchiojd and Chiojd. A number of witnesses at Valea Teleajenului saw what one of them described as a cigar shaped object which was observed to travel horizontally for 6 - 7 seconds until it disappeared in a north east direction. There was no sound associated with either sighting, and the possibility that it could have been an aircraft was ruled out. It was surrounded by a greenish halo and emitted a jet of sparks at the extremity of its trail.

UFO Excavations

The following case took place on Feb. 8, 1974 at dawn. Ten girls from the Valenii De Munte town boarding school saw from their bedroom window, in the direction of Bughea De Jos village, two bright orange spheres (or discs) side by side hanging motionless over the trees. Distance from observer about 1½ mile. Both objects appeared to be the same size and were separated by a gap much less than the width of one of them. They were fairly sharply outlined and both were surrounded by a whitish halo of light which was much more intense in the area between them. The objects were the apparent size of a two inch diameter circle held at arm's length.

After about 15 seconds the two spheres slowly approached one another (this operation took about 15 - 17 sec) and fused, forming a long object which was oval in shape, and exhibited the same colour and halo as the single object. This object then moved very slowly into the south west (approx. 6 - 7 sec.), then accelerated and disappeared into the distance within a time span of about 3 - 4 seconds. After the object had left, a whitish mist remained in the area where they had hovered.

Examination of the fields in the direction where the object was seen revealed two concave ditches similar to those made by a skidding automobile tyre. The earth was not pressed, but rather, the soil was gouged out. There was no indication that these marks were made by ordinary means.

Ogretin Case

The principle witness is Mr. Stefan Constantin, who reported: "On the morning of July 31, 1974, together with a friend of mine, Mr. Frecan Gheorghe, we carried in my automobile, from Valenii De Munte to Ogretin commune, a friend of Frecan Gh. At 1.00 hrs. we left the friend in Ogretin and returned to Valenii De Munte".

It was dark with a clear sky and moon. As he passed the Drajna De Jos commune, his attention was attracted to a large bright yellow light in the sky to his right and ahead of him. He thought the object was the moon but he also saw to his left the real moon.

"It was an unnatural round light at about one mile height, moving in the same direction as the car. I stopped and we got out of the car for a clearer view. We watched the object which seemed to descend until it disappeared behind a hill (elevation 450). I put the car in motion to follow it. Soon after that we met it again over Faget hillocks where the dimension of the object was larger and closer to the earth. Again I stopped the car at the intersection Slon-Fosesti and we watched it".

According to Mr. Constantin, the object appeared to be a "barrel", yellow-orange, and the hue was deeper in the centre of the object. The bottom was larger and had blurred edges. There was no sound from the object. The observer thought the object's actual size was at least as big as a large automobile. Although he could not really judge how far away it was, he thought the object might have been situated at approx. 500 m. away. He believed the average speed of the object was approximately 50 mph, although he had no way of checking his speed since the speedometer was broken and disconnected.

"At one time we were parallel with it and I signalled with headlights, but it did not answer. The last I saw it was over a skirt of plum trees from Valenii De Munte and it was very low and illuminated the treetops. Then it disappeared behind a hill that separated Valenii De Munte town from Bughea De Jos commune. We stopped at the gas station in the town but the station workman was sleeping. We arrived at I.G.C. seat (Enterprise of Communal Services) where the watchman reported to us that a big glowing object had reddened the court of the enterprise, and after that it disappeared behind the hill. His name is Ivascu Ion".

Landing With Traces

At 19.15 hrs, March 29, 1976, ten children from Scaieni town followed an impressive aerial phenomenon for approximately one hour.

Case History

Fifteen year old schoolboy, Cotovanu Gheorghe, declared the following: "While walking together with my schoolmates home from school I saw some strange lights on the hill in front of us. The phenomenon I observed in the west and took place on a large surface. At first sight I thought that they were the headlights of a truck, but the lights were too large for that distance and they were very near (side by side) and a small distance from the top of the hill - 50 m. Altitude 300 m. They were orange and made no noise".

"The lights appeared simultaneously", declared 14 year old schoolboy Duma Gheorghe. "Then they disappeared and appeared at a great distance. Sometimes only one of a red colour appeared. This moved back to its original position and disappeared. Then two orange coloured lights identical with the first reappeared. This display of disappearances and changing of colours lasted about 15 minutes. They moved very fast, surpassing the speed of a truck or tractor".

By holding various coins at arm's length, he guessed the UFO's apparent size was as large as a pea. Suddenly after some irregular movements it disappeared for a few minutes and reappeared, but less brilliant. The witnesses estimated its size to be as large as a 1.5 cm disc at arm's length. Distance about one km. Elevation 300.

Fourteen year old schoolgirl Corjos Rodica gave full details of these movements: "Before it reappeared I saw some very strong lights at the back of the hill, and after a little time a bright yellow-orange object appeared. After a short stationary (period) it disappeared, and five minutes later appeared again. Then it changed its colour to red and disappeared, and five minutes later it reappeared in another place. When the light appeared and disappeared it revolved over the hill, like in a circle, lower down, so I lost sight of it. I thought it descended".

In succession, the fourteen year old schoolgirl Moraru Constanta added: "Soon after that appeared two small orange-red lights. The first time they stationed(sic) then they disappeared after one second and they reappeared in another place. Once again they became one and formed the bright light which was at the back of the hill. Then it disappeared and appeared again as two small lights which descended in zig zag to the foot of the hill where they stayed a few seconds and then disappeared. Five minutes later only one small light appeared over the woods. There it stayed until I left for home".

The end of this phenomenon is in the declaration of schoolgirl Dordea Sanda: "On the evening of 29/3/76, in the west direction, I observed over the hill near Teleajen river a light like a car headlight at a distance. It changed position every moment. First it was over the hill, then it appeared to the left, and then it descended to the ground near Teleajen river. It stayed there five minutes, after that it ascended and disappeared in a few seconds leaving a long smoke trail. Until it disappeared it changed colour between red and yellow. When I saw this object I was alone because I was returning from woods".

Investigation

The children reported the incident to their parents and to Mr. Balan Cristian, a teacher at their school, who investigated the area a few days later and found a strange mark on the grass. The following morning I was called to this place by Mr. Balan, who told me that he collected samples for test, and after that his palm and the fingers of the right hand were reddened and swollen. Mr. Balan handled the samples just with the right hand as a measure of precaution. Mr. Balan had a pleasant itching sensation at first on the fingers, and also on the palm, and a gentle smarting, like tanned skin. At the same time the head ached. The headaches were ordinary and they bothered him until the second day. Because in the following days the condition of his hand became normal, Mr. Balan didn't see a doctor.

After questioning the children, who seemed sincere and very cooperative, I visited the area where the object was seen and found a round track of burnt grass about 150 cm. wide. Dead grass in the field had been burnt, revealing green grass also with the tops withered or burnt. The burning was only superficial and with a distinct contour. There was no indication that the mark was made by ordinary means.

In this place the ground is sloping. I think this clear mark was the result of a "hot jet" emitted at take-off by a UFO, which at final disappearance left a smoke trail. The "landing area" is situated on the second rung of the hill and at 80 m distance from a high tension line. The possibility of the lowering of the tension voltage at the time was not proven.

I effected some experiments which convinced me to believe the strange mark is radioactive. Thus, I put on the grass films which were left for 45 minutes. The films were strongly affected. Smelt closely, the burnt grass had a repulsive and stunning odour.

Weather conditions during the sighting were the following: clear sky, no precipitation, twilight, no wind, temp. approx. 10°C. No sound was heard during the whole sighting, nor was there any visible means of propulsion.

UFO CONFERENCE TWO

by Michael McNamara

On Sunday Oct. 24 the town of Mount Gambier was the site of the second national conference organised by the Australian Co-ordination Section (ACOS) of the Centre For UFO Studies. The previous day Mt. Gambier was the scene (along with many others) of the total eclipse of the sun. The conference date and place had been determined a year ago when it was thought that Dr. J. A. Hynek, director of the Centre For UFO Studies in America, may have been in Mt. Gambier for eclipse observations, and would have been able to be present at the conference. However, the participants were not meeting, as has been stated in some news media, expecting to see UFOs during the eclipse. As far as I know, there has only been one sighting of a UFO during an eclipse; that being the sighting and subsequent photography by scientists in Sweden while photographing an eclipse.

The conference began at 9.30 on the Sunday morning, and continued throughout Sunday, Monday, finishing with a debate on the Tuesday afternoon. Two items of interest emerging from the conference which might be mentioned: ACOS has acquired the exclusive use of a computer which can be used for research projects by ACOS members; and the first major report from the American Centre is expected in Australia very soon.

A fuller report on UFOCON TWO will be published in a later Bulletin.

SOCIETY MEETING DEC. 10

A general meeting of the Society will be held at the National Mutual Centre Theatrette, 447 Collins St., on Friday, December 10, at 8.00 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Clifford Wilson, Bible scholar, and former Director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology. Dr. Wilson has been a critic of the theories of Erich von Daniken in his books "Crash Go The Chariots", and "UFOs And Their Mission Impossible".

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